



# Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2007  
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## **TWO NEW YORK MEN INDICTED ON FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES**

*– Truck Driver and Passenger Charged with Possessing Over 1400 Pounds of Marijuana  
– \$2.8 million street value*

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal Grand Jury in Bowling Green returned an indictment against **Kermit Aber Garriques**, age 49, of Newburgh, New York and **Uriel Dennis Bell, a/k/a Leon Anthony Bell**, age 42, of Bronx, New York, on charges of possessing with the intent to distribute over 1400 pounds of marijuana, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

The indictment alleges that on May 27, 2007, a Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement (KVE) officer stopped a tractor-trailer on Interstate 65 near Bowling Green, Kentucky for a safety inspection. During the inspection of the vehicle, which was being operated by Garriques and occupied by Bell as a passenger, the officer located and seized approximately 1405 pounds of marijuana concealed in the trailer. A K-9 unit picked up the scent of the drugs which resulted in the seizure. The estimated street value of the marijuana is 2.8 million dollars.

United States Attorney David L. Huber praised the efforts of Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration in their effective response to these very serious offenses. Huber said, "The KVE is one of the best at finding drugs in vehicles they stop – a very professional unit and one of the best kept law enforcement secrets."

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert Bonar, and it was investigated by Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are 40 years imprisonment, a \$ 2,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 5 years.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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